



CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

AGENDA DATE: July 15, 2008

TO: Mayor and Councilmembers

FROM: Creeks Division, Parks and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: Mission Creek Fish Passage – Accept Grant Funding For Final Design Of Highway 192 And Tallant Road Bridge Barrier Removal

RECOMMENDATION: That Council:

- A. Adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara Authorizing the Parks and Recreation Director to Accept Grant Funds and Execute Two Grant Agreements for \$69,410 and \$50,000 from the California Department of Fish and Game Fisheries Restoration Grant Program for the Mission Creek Fish Passage Projects at the Highway 192 and Tallant Road Bridges, Respectively;
- B. Increase appropriations and estimated revenues by \$119,410 in the Creeks Division Capital Fund for the Mission Creek Fish Passage Projects at the Highway 192 and Tallant Road Bridges; and
- C. Authorize the Parks and Recreation Director to execute two professional services agreements with Questa Engineering Corporation (Questa) in the amounts of \$69,410 and \$56,500 to prepare final plans and construction specifications for the Mission Creek Fish Passage Projects at the Highway 192 and Tallant Road Bridges, respectively.

DISCUSSION:

Introduction

Over the last two years, the Creeks Division has worked with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), Santa Barbara County Flood Control District, Environmental Defense Center (EDC), and community members to restore a healthy population of steelhead trout in Mission Creek.

Mission Creek is considered the most viable stream for steelhead trout restoration in the City of Santa Barbara. Mission Creek contains high quality spawning and rearing habitat within the stream channels in the mid and upper watershed and currently has an existing population of rainbow trout (freshwater version of steelhead trout). Mission Creek also has a documented historic run of steelhead trout, and every year for the last five years,

steelhead trout have been recorded attempting to migrate upstream without success due to barriers within the stream channel.

There are 12 identified barriers to steelhead trout migration on Mission Creek. The 3 most significant barriers are the Caltrans Channel, the Tallant Road Bridge, and the Highway 192 Bridge. Removing these barriers would provide access for steelhead trout to 4.86 miles of creek channel, which include 2 miles of moderate to high quality spawning and rearing habitat. These 3 barriers are the primary focus of the Creeks Division's restoration efforts on Mission Creek.

The most significant barrier to allowing steelhead trout to migrate upstream is the Caltrans Channel. It is the lowest downstream barrier on Mission Creek and is completely impassable by steelhead trout. A conceptual design for making this barrier passable is currently being tested by Northwest Hydraulics Consultants. Funds for this work are being provided by grants from the CDFG and the Annenberg Foundation (through the EDC). The consultant contract and grant funds were approved by Council in May 2007.

The current proposal to restore the steelhead trout population in Mission Creek involves removing the next upstream barriers to migration located beneath the Tallant Road and Highway 192 Bridges.

The Tallant Road Bridge is located just upstream of Oak Park and spans a large concrete grade control structure in the creek bed that extends approximately 80 feet downstream of the bridge. Due to the height and length of the grade control structure, this barrier is impassable for fish. The project will involve removal of the grade control structure and replacement with natural creek boulders to create streambed conditions that allow steelhead trout to migrate upstream.

The Highway 192 Bridge is located east of Mission Canyon Road immediately upstream of Rocky Nook Park. The bridge spans a large concrete grade control structure in the creek bed that extends approximately 40 feet downstream of the bridge. Due to the height and length of the grade control structure, fish passage upstream is considered nearly impossible. The project will involve removal of the grade control structure and replacement with natural creek boulders to create streambed conditions that allow steelhead trout to migrate upstream.

In May 2007, the Creeks Division applied for 2 grants with the CDFG to complete final design for the Highway 192 and Tallant Road Bridge fish passage projects. In February 2008, CDFG notified the Creeks Division that grant funds for these projects had been awarded to the City. The Creeks Division is now recommending that Council accept the CDFG grant funds and approve the final design contracts with Questa. Once approved, the Creeks Division will oversee preparation of final design plans and construction specifications for the two projects.

Questa Engineering Corporation

The Creeks Division proposes that the City contract with Questa to prepare the final design plans and construction specifications. The design plans and specifications would provide all the necessary information to bid and construct the Tallant Road and Highway 192 Bridge fish passage projects.

Questa is recommended as the sole source consultant for several reasons: First, Questa is a highly experienced engineering firm with over 25 years of experience specializing in fish passage and creek restoration projects. Second, Questa developed the conceptual project design alternatives and prepared the preliminary design plans for these projects. Third, the CDFG grant application and contract identify Questa as the consultant that would prepare the final design plans.

BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:

The total cost for the 2 contracts with Questa to complete final design work for the Tallant Road and Highway 192 Bridges is \$125,910. Two grants have been awarded to the City from the CDFG for a total of \$119,410. The Creeks Division will contribute \$6,500, if necessary, to complete the final design work on the Tallant Road Bridge project.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:

The purpose of the project is to improve fish passage on Mission Creek. These fish passage efforts will contribute to local, regional, and federal objectives of restoring the federally endangered steelhead trout within the Mission Creek Watershed.

PREPARED BY: George Johnson, Creeks Supervisor

SUBMITTED BY: Nancy L. Rapp, Parks and Recreation Director

APPROVED BY: City Administrator's Office